



Roe Court Walkway: A Very Brief History

This area has likely seen Unkechaug Indians and colonials (after 1750) going about their business; horses, buggies, stage coaches, the Rocket (an early monorail car, being drawn by oxen, heading E.), cyclists, parades, circuses, Suffolk Traction Co. trolleys (1911-19), automobiles, trucks, and buses, all passing along Main St. G. Horton's home appears in the walkway vicinity, in 1812. By 1857, there were shops of a cabinetmaker, woolright, blacksmith, carpenter, and J.G. Horton's house. By 1888, homes of William Roe, "Miss N." Roe and Mrs. G. Horton appear. Remains of **Justus Roe & Sons**, the *world's first steel (measuring) tape factory* lie under the parking lot, just S. of Roe Ct., along with a bicycle repair shop, and nearby blacksmith (1902). Businesses came and went, before and after Roe Court took its present shape, when W.T. Grant's was built (1953), where Patchogue-Medford Library now stands. The *History of Patchogue* wall mural, initially unpopular, received media attention, won public approval, and in 1987, a national public relations award; and which recently has undergone restoration.